

# EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Allegan, MI*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

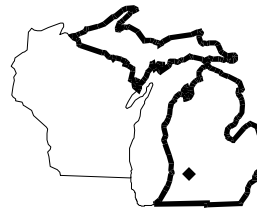
Quick Reference Fact Sheet

**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

## BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Allegan for a Brownfields Pilot. Allegan was also selected to receive additional funding for assessments at brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. Located in the center of Allegan County, the city was built on the historic presence of manufacturing and industrial facilities, many of which are now abandoned or underused. With a population of approximately 4,500, the city provides many goods and services to a large portion of the surrounding rural townships in the county. Approximately 82 percent of the workforce are high school graduates employed in manufacturing and retail trades, and although the county has a low unemployment rate, more than half of the current workforce must travel outside of the county for employment. The majority of the jobs associated with the local manufacturing companies pay between \$6.00 and \$10.00 per hour, resulting in a large population of low-income and disadvantaged households. The Allegan Brownfields Redevelopment Authority, established in 1998, has initiated several area redevelopment and beautification projects around the historic and riverfront areas of the city. The city, through its Pilot, plans to continue these efforts by targeting an additional 5 to 11 properties for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment.

## PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Allegan, MI*

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 2000

**Amount:** \$200,000  
**Greenspace:** \$50,000

**Profile:** The Pilots will target up to 11 brownfields properties in the City of Allegan's riverfront and historic areas for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment.

### Contacts:

City of Allegan Brownfields  
Redevelopment Authority  
(616) 673-5511

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 5  
(312) 353-3161

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

## OBJECTIVES

Allegan's primary objective is to target up to 11 brownfields properties located along the Kalamazoo River and in the city's historic district for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment. Allegan's efforts, supplemented by Pilot activities, will help to strengthen the city's economic base and increase job opportunities, develop affordable housing, preserve the integrity of historically significant properties, and provide a link between the downtown business district and the city's fairgrounds and historic district. The Pilot will leverage other city, state, and federal grant programs, as well as private funding, for cleanup and redevelopment activities. In addition, the Pilot will use the supplemental greenspace funding to conduct additional site assessments at up to three targeted greenspace sites located adjacent to the Kalamazoo River. The Pilot plans to coordinate its efforts with existing business districts and other redevelopment sites to ensure maximum economic and community benefit.

- Assessing the exposure pathways to humans and the river ecosystem at greenspace sites; and
- Leveraging additional funds from other city, state, and federal government and private sources for cleanup and redevelopment activities, including the extension of the riverfront boardwalk and the development of nature trails along the Kalamazoo River and in the historic Mill District.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Establishing two advisory groups, including a broad-based stakeholder group consisting of private citizens, community organization, developers, and elected official, and a technical committee consisting of city, state, and federal government representatives, an environmental consultant, and environmental attorney;
- Identifying potential brownfields properties for consideration in the project;
- Targeting up to 11 brownfields properties for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment;
- Conducting up to 10 Phase I and 6 Phase II site assessments at targeted properties, including 3 greenspace sites;